



GO GREEN! NEWSLETTER

Summer Tips To Stay Green



- 1) ***There's No Place Like Home*** -- Although traveling the world may seem spectacular this summer, your pocketbook – and Mother Nature - may take a toll with long voyages to foreign places. Take advantage of all the great things to do, right here in our own backyard, [at http://www.lansing.org/](http://www.lansing.org/)
- 2) ***Turn It Down!*** -- We all know the July heat can be intense, but blasting the A.C. all summer long takes a lot of energy and a lot of money, set the temperature just 3 degrees higher and you'll see considerable savings.
- 3) ***Become a localvore*** - Buy food locally. Farmers markets are great places to shop, and ensure that the veggies you're eating hot off the grill or mixed in a salad haven't traveled thousands of miles just to reach your plate.
- 4) ***The green plate special-*** Use reusable dishes rather than plastics or Styrofoam. If you absolutely must use disposables, make sure to use compostable varieties and put them in the compost bin when you're through— otherwise you defeat the purpose of using biodegradable.
- 5) ***Greenie bikini*** - You don't have to go so far as wearing a [biodegradable](#) or [solar bikini](#) to make your summer wardrobe more sustainable. Look for eco-friendly products like clothing, swimsuits, sandals, towels, and skin care items. Each of them is a step in the right direction, and you might just fall in love with a product or style you never knew existed.

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LCC Students Recognized For Green Achievement



The Go Green! Team would like to congratulate LCC students for their winning net zero home design. Their design will be going from the drawing board to the real world this summer when it is built on Mackinac Island! Net Zero buildings have a net energy consumption of zero and annual zero carbon emissions.

When a competition to design a net-zero house was announced to colleges in the state, some might have assumed it was meant for architecture programs at bigger schools. But Instructor Jed Dingens, AIA, LEED-AP, recruited a group of LCC students committed to working long hours, and together the team has produced a zero-energy Victorian style house with a windmill on top.

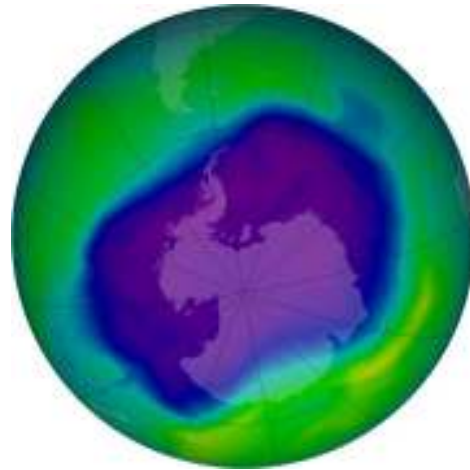


MISSION : CLEAN AIR

Be Aware of Peak Ozone Season

May through September is Peak Ozone Season, when we face an increase in ground-level-ozone emissions, resulting mainly from our own personal vehicles. High CO2 emission levels especially affect members of sensitive groups including the elderly, children, and those adults who are active outdoors all day. People with asthma or lung problems should especially avoid heavy exertion outdoors to prevent any breathing problems.

Unhealthy air affects us all! High levels of green house gases in the air can result in chest pain, difficulties with breathing, narrowing of airways, and even annoying eye irritation. In an effort to reduce the impacts on our community's air quality, the Greater Lansing Area should watch for Ozone Announcements of orange or higher and take action! Learn more and keep updated at <http://www.cata.org/CATAServices/CleanCommuteOptions/OzoneActionSeason/tabid/510/Default.aspx>.



Simple Steps To Cleaner Air

We know that getting in your own car and driving is often the easiest and quickest option, but you may not know that a small change in the choices we make everyday can have a big impact on our community's air quality all year round!

1- *At least* once a week, choose to ride the bus, or choose other commute options such as biking, walking or carpooling.

2- Fuel your car in the evening and don't top off your gas tank.

Using a bicycle to commute four days a week for four miles (one-way) saves 54 gallons of gas annually.



CLIMATE CORNER



Trucks Play Significant Role in Air Quality, Climate Change

If the businesses that you shop at utilize trucks as a means of transporting products, you may want to investigate their idling practices. Many trucking companies permit a considerable amount of engine idling; something that uses quite a bit of gasoline and can be unnecessary.

What is engine idling? Engine idling is simply the act of running a vehicle's engine when the vehicle is not in motion, but parked in one place. Limiting idle time saves fuel, engine wear, and money while reducing emissions and noise. Idle reduction options typically refer to technologies and practices that reduce the amount of time vehicles idle their engines.

How much petroleum can be saved from trucker idle reduction? A lot. Consider the example of a trucking fleet of 50 Class 8 trucks that reduce their idling by 8 hours per day. This fleet will save over 100,000 gallons of fuel per year! If every trucking company operating in Michigan reduced their idling the impact on petroleum consumption would be HUGE!

